1082

BRR No.
PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT
15 SEP 1941
LAHORE
G7(4)

Report on the Jail Administration of the Province of Assam for the year 1940

BY
LIEUT.-COLONEL A. M. V. HESTERLOW, M.B., ch. B. (EDIN.), B.SC., P.H. (EDIN.), D.T.M. & H. (EDIN.), I.M.S.,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, ASSAM.

G7(4)
15082

SHILLONG
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
1941

(4)
41
82

Price Re. 1-6 or 2s. 1d.

Report on the Jail Administration of the Province of Assam for the year 1940

BY

LIEUT.-COLONEL A. M. V. HESTERLOW, M.B., Ch. B. (EDIN.), B.SC., P.H. (EDIN.), D.T.M. & H. (EDIN.), I.M.S.,

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, ASSAM.

SHILLONG

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS

1941

[**The text of the report is limited to twenty pages**]

Report on the Administration of the Jails of the Province of Assam, 1940

CONTENTS

	Para.
Introductory	1
Inspector-General of Prisons	2
Number of Jails	3
JUDICIAL STATISTICS	
General Summary	4
Statement No. I—Convicts	5
Statement No. XVIII—Under trial prisoners	6
Civil prisoners	7
State prisoners	8
Statement No. II—Religion of convicts	9
Ditto —Age periods	10
Ditto —Sex	11
Ditto —Previous occupation	12
Ditto —Education	13
Statement No. III—Nature and length of sentence	14
Statement No. IV—Previously convicted prisoners	15
Star class system and Special division prisoners	16
Escapes and recaptures	17
Statement No. VI—Jail offences and punishments	18
Corporal punishments	19
Conduct of habituals	20
Education of convicts	21
Aid on discharge	22
Fetters	23
Statement C—Remission system	24
Advisory Boards	25
Convict officers	26
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement No. IX—Gross expenditure	27
Ditto —Establishment charges	28
Ditto —Dietary charges	29
Ditto —Hospital charges	30
Ditto —Clothing and bedding	31
Ditto —Sanitation charges	32
Ditto —Charges for moving prisoners	33
Ditto —Miscellaneous services and supplies	34
Ditto —Travelling allowance	35
Ditto —Contingencies	36
Ditto —Extraordinary charges	37
Jail dairies	38

	Par.
Statement No. XI—Employment of convicts	39
Statement No. XII-A—Financial results—General	40
Ditto —Results of employment on manufactures and labour	41
Statement No. XIII—Net cost of the department	42
Financial results in individual prisons	43

VITAL STATISTICS

Statement No. XIV—Sickness and mortality	44
Mortality	45
Ditto in individual jails	46—60
Sickness and mortality among convicts	61 (a)
Ditto among undertrials, civil and State prisoners	61 (b)
Classes of diseases	62
Chief diseases	63—68
Release on account of sickness	69
Statement No. XVII—Mortality according to periods of sentence undergone ...	70
Statement E—Condition of convicts released from jail	71
Sanitary improvements	72
Overcrowding	73

MISCELLANEOUS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Religious instructors	74
Jail libraries	75
Expenditure on jail buildings	76
Statement A—Accommodation	77
Provincial Statement A—Visits...	78
Ditto —Inspections	79
Conduct of jail establishment	80
General features of the year	81
Detenus	82
Appointment of Subdivisional Medical Officers as Superintendents of Jails at Subdivisional Headquarters	83
Conduct of officers	84

Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Assam

No. 2561.

FROM

LIEUT.-COLONEL A. M. V. HESTERLOW, M.B., Ch.B. (EDIN.), B.SC., P.H. (EDIN.), D.T.M. & H. (EDIN.), I.M.S., INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, ASSAM,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM, SHILLONG

Dated Shillong, the 3rd May 1941.

SIR,

Introductory.—I have the honour to submit herewith the report on the administration of the Assam Jail Department for the year 1940.

2. *Inspector-General of Prisons.*—Colonel E. S. Phipson, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., I.M.S., held charge of the Department throughout the year under report, except for the period from the 4th April 1940 to the 27th August 1940, during which period Lieut.-Colonel L. A. P. Anderson, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Camb.), I.M.S., was in charge.

3. *Number of Jails.*—The number of jails remained the same as in the previous year.

The following measures of jail reforms were administratively approved and introduced as far as possible during the year :—

1. Introduction in jails of outdoor games such as Hadudu and the extension of facilities for indoor games to "C" Division prisoners.
2. Supply of ½ chhatak of mustard oil each to all female and Sikh prisoners for their hair.
3. Replacement of *saries* of 5 yds.×40" by *saries* of 5½ yds.×45" for use by female prisoners.
4. Provision of newspapers for all "C" division prisoners after censorship.
5. Introduction of the method of imparting general knowledge through magic lantern lectures.
6. Gradual replacement of iron cooking pots, plates and cups by brass utensils.
7. Provision of pillows and bedsheets for all "C" division prisoners.

As a result of introduction of these reforms, there has been a distinct improvement in the jail life of the prisoners.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

4. *General Summary.*—The year opened with a population of 3,371 prisoners of all classes in confinement, against 3,161 in the previous year. The numbers admitted and discharged were 13,967 and 14,215, against 13,866 and 13,656, respectively, in 1939 ; the admissions increased by 101 and the discharges by 559. Three thousand one hundred and twenty-three remained in confinement at the end of the year.

The daily average number of prisoners of all classes was 3,191·09, against 3,215·72 in 1939, or a decrease of 21·63. Of this number, 2,609·04 were convicts, 584·55 undertrials and 0·50 civil prisoners.

There was a slight fall during the year under report in the daily average number of convicts.

5. *Statement No. I—Convicts.*—The number of convicts at the commencement of the year was 2,688 (2,659 males and 29 females) and the number imprisoned during the year 4,268 (4,191 males and 77 females), against 2,623 (2,590 males and 33 females) and 4,273 (4,203 males and 70 females) respectively, in the previous year.

The total number of convicts dealt with, including transfers from other jails both in and out of the province, was 8,642, against 8,575 in the previous year. Of this number, 1,773 were transferred to other jails, 4,205 were released, 3 were transferred to the Mental Hospital, 1 escaped and remained at large, 3 were executed and 54 died, leaving a balance of 2,603 in confinement at the end of the year.

The long outstanding problem of undesirable detention of certified lunatics in jails for periods longer than that prescribed, for want of accommodation in the Mental Hospital, Tezpur, has remained unsolved. It is, however, hoped that the additional accommodation provided for 26 male patients in the newly constructed ward in the Mental Hospital, Tezpur, which will shortly be opened will ease the situation to some extent, but still more accommodation is essential before the existing deplorable state of affairs can be satisfactorily remedied.

The proportion of convicts to the free population of the province was 1 to 3,545 or 2·82 per 10,000 calculated on the daily average number of convicts, and 1 to 2,167 or 4·61 per 10,000 calculated on the number imprisoned during the year. The corresponding figures for 1939 were 3,510 or 2·85 and 2,164 or 4·62, respectively.

6. *Statement No. XVIII - Under-trial prisoners.*—There were 683 undertrial prisoners confined in jails at the beginning of the year and 8,008 were received during the year, making a total of 8,691. Of this number, 5,399 were acquitted and released, 2,420 were convicted and sentenced, 343 were transferred, 5 escaped and 4 died. At the end of the year 520 remained in custody awaiting trial, against 683 in 1939. There was a slight increase in the daily average, *viz.*, from 579·56 in 1939 to 584·55 in 1940.

The number released on bail was 3,680 and the number subsequently convicted 1,209; those released after formal warning were 87. The number released in direct and excise cases and not concerned with the Police amounted to 132.

The average period of detention in Magistrates' cases was 22·18 days, against 21·61 days in 1939. The highest figure is reported from the Gauhati District Jail (31·50). One hundred and twenty prisoners were detained for periods of over three months in the province.

The cases of detention of undertrial prisoners over two months in Sessions cases and one month in Magistrates' cases are reported to Government monthly for necessary action.

7. *Civil prisoners.*—There was no civil prisoner in custody at the beginning of the year. The admissions during the year amounted to 5. All of these prisoners were released, leaving none in custody at the close of the year.

8. *State prisoners.*—There were no State prisoners in custody during the year under report.

9. *Statement No. II—Religion of convicts.*—Of the 4,268 convicts admitted during the year, 54·90 per cent. were Hindus and Sikhs, 38·35 per cent. Muslims, 0·52 per cent. Christians and 6·23 per cent. other religions.

All possible facilities were afforded to prisoners to observe religious obligations under the rules. In addition to the honorary religious instructors (both Hindu and Muslim) appointed for larger jails in this province, voluntary religious instructors also attended some of the jails and addressed the prisoners of their respective faiths and religious persuasions on moral and religious subjects.

10. *Age periods.*—The number and percentages of prisoners admitted during 1939 and 1940 according to age were :—

	1939	1940
Under 16 years	10 or 0·24 per cent.	7 or 0·16 per cent.
Between 16 and 21 years	291 or 6·81 per cent.	256 or 6·00 per cent.
Between 22 and 30 years	1,920 or 44·93 per cent.	1,922 or 45·03 per cent.
Between 31 and 40 years	1,179 or 27·59 per cent.	1,196 or 28·02 per cent.
Between 41 and 60 years	797 or 18·65 per cent.	827 or 19·38 per cent.
Above 60 years	76 or 1·78 per cent.	60 or 1·41 per cent.

There was a drop in the number of admissions of prisoners under 16 years. Of the 7 prisoners under 16 years of age, 5 were youthful offenders eligible for detention in the Reformatory School, Hazaribagh, and all of them were selected by the sentencing courts to undergo detention in that institution. No unusual delay occurred in effecting their transfer to the School.

Owing to constructional defects in the Jails of Assam, separation of juveniles from the adult prisoners cannot be carried out as thoroughly as it should be, and this state of things will, it is feared, continue until the scheme, now under consideration, for the conversion of the Nowgong District Jail into a Juvenile Jail materialises. In these days of financial stringency, it is impracticable to suggest improvements in some of the existing jails to bring them up-to-date and to provide facilities for the separation of the different classes of prisoners.

11. *Sex.*—The number of female convicts admitted during the year was 77, against 70 in the previous year. Of these, 42 were Hindus and Sikhs, 16 Muslims and 19 belonged to other classes.

Twelve female prisoners were between the ages of 16 to 21, twenty-three between 22 to 30, nineteen between 31 to 40, twenty-two between 41 to 60 and one above 60 years.

Sixty-three were married, one unmarried, twelve widows and one prostitute. All of them were illiterate.

12. *Previous occupation.*—Classified by occupation, 26 or 0·62 per cent. were employed under Government, Municipal or other Local Authorities, 72 or 1·72 per cent. were Professional persons, 576 or 13·74 per cent. were in Service or performing personal Office, 2,864 or 68·34 per cent. were engaged in Agriculture and with animals, 87 or 2·08 per cent. were engaged in Commerce and trade, 37 or 0·88 per cent. in Mechanical Arts, etc., and 529 or 12·62 per cent. were persons of miscellaneous occupation.

13. *Education.*—Out of the 4,268 convicts admitted during the year, 139 or 3·26 per cent. were literate and 4,129 or 96·74 per cent. were illiterate.

14. *Statement No. III—Nature and length of sentences.*—The following table compares the admissions and ratio figures of those admitted direct during the past three years according to the terms of sentence :—

	Number admitted			Ratio per cent.		
	1938	1939	1940	1938	1939	1940
Not exceeding one month	618	575	611	14·56	13·46	14·32
Above one month and not exceeding 3 months.	1,065	1,137	1,098	25·09	26·61	25·73
Above three months and not exceeding 6 months.	1,209	1,200	1,130	28·48	28·08	26·48
Above six months and not exceeding 1 year.	725	737	825	17·08	17·25	19·33
Above one year and not exceeding 2 years.	337	304	307	7·94	7·11	7·19
Above two years and not exceeding 5 years.	169	219	19.	3·98	5·13	4·47
Above five years and not exceeding 10 years.	76	63	64	1·79	1·47	1·50
Above ten years.	12	5	7	0·28	0·12	0·16
Transportation for life	29	25	30	0·68	0·58	0·70
Transportation for a term	1	...	...	0·02	...	...
Sentenced to death	4	8	5	0·10	0·19	0·12

There was a slight increase in the number of convicts sentenced to simple imprisonment, *viz.*, from 128 in 1939 to 129 in 1940. Those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment also increased from 4,135 to 4,136. There were two cases of

rigorous imprisonment with solitary confinement, against one in the previous year and the number of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment combined with whipping dropped from 9 to 1.

Out of 129 cases of simple imprisonment, the law allowed the infliction of rigorous imprisonment in 35 cases.

Of the total number of convicts that remained in jails at the end of the year, *viz.*, 2,603, one was under sentence of death, 153 were sentenced to transportation for life, 35 to periods of imprisonment exceeding 10 years, 1,060 to terms above one year and not exceeding 10 years and 1,354 to periods not exceeding one year.

15. *Statement No. IV—Previously convicted prisoners.*—Of the 4,268 convicts admitted during the year, 788 or 18 per cent. had been previously convicted, against 735 or 17 per cent. in 1939. The figure includes 278 imprisoned for the first time in default of finding security, under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code and classed as habituals. Of the remainder, 343 had one, 74 two and 93 more than two previous convictions. The classification was carried out by the convicting Courts.

Every effort was made to segregate habituals from casuals ; but for lack of cellular accommodation and because of the structural defects of the jails, complete segregation of prisoners according to classification was not possible.

The worst type of incorrigible offenders and all long-term habituals are concentrated in the jails at Sylhet and Tezpur ; but even in those jails a certain amount of the accommodation has to be reserved for casuals.

16. *Star class prisoners.*—Star class prisoners are kept separate from other casual prisoners as far as possible in order to avoid their being contaminated by hardened criminals. But this also cannot always be done effectively for want of suitable accommodation.

Special division prisoners.—Special arrangements exists in the Sylhet and Tezpur District Jails for the detention of " A " division prisoners and in all the larger jails for the detention of " B " division prisoners.

Four " A " division prisoners were received during the year and they remained in custody at the end of the year.

Twelve " B " division prisoners remained over from the previous year and 55 were received during the year, making a total of 67. Of these, the number released during the year was 40, leaving 27 in confinement at the end of the year.

17. *Escapes and recapture.*—Six convicts and five undertrials escaped during the year under review, against three convicts and three undertrials in the previous year. These escapes occurred in the jails at Dibrugarh, Habiganj, South Sylhet, Mangaldai and Golaghat. Of these escapes three escaped while on extramural duty and the rest from inside the jail.

The escapes from intramural custody were partly due to carelessness on the part of the warders on duty, but structural defects also contributed to the escapes.

The following is a brief history of the manner in which the escapes were effected :—

Dibrugarh.—One convict managed to escape from custody while engaged in extramural duty. He was recaptured within four hours of his escape by a Police Constable and prosecuted under section 224 Indian Penal Code the warder responsible for the escape was dealt with departmentally.

Habiganj.—One convict escaped while employed on extramural work. The convict himself surrendered after 5 months to the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj. The warder responsible for the escape was dealt with departmentally.

South Sylhet.—Five undertrials and two convicts escaped from inside the jail by overpowering the convict overseer and warder on duty and finally by breaking the jail doors and palisades. Out of these escaped prisoners three undertrials and two convicts were recaptured during the year under report. One undertrial, since convicted, was recaptured on 21st February 1941, and the other one is still at large. Considering the circumstances of the occurrence the warder on duty and the convict overseer were not punished.

Mangaldai.—One convict escaped from custody while engaged in extramural duty. The convict is still at large. The warder responsible was duly punished.

Golaghat.—One convict managed to escape from the jail through the bamboo palisade by shifting two bamboos of the palisade. He was recaptured after four days. The persons who effected the recapture were given a reward of Rs. 50 on recommendation of the Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar. One convict who escaped in the previous year is still at large. The warder responsible for the escape was punished departmentally.

18. *Statement No. VI—Jail offences and punishments.*—The number of offences dealt with was 903, against 974 in the previous year. Of these, 13 were dealt with by criminal courts and the remainder by Superintendents of Jails.

Offences relating to work and prohibited articles fell from 148 and 251 in 1939 to 102 and 216 in 1940, respectively, and those relating to assaults and escapes rose from 143 to 172. Four hundred offences related to all other breaches of jail rules, against 430 in the previous year.

Of the 13 punishments inflicted by criminal courts, all were in connection with escapes.

Of the 890 punishments awarded by the Superintendent of Jails, 690 were minor and 200 major, against 693 and 279, respectively, in the previous year. The ratios per cent. of minor and major punishments were 26·45 and 7·67 and that of the total number of punishments to the daily average number of convicts was 34·61.

There were a few individual cases of hunger-strikes amongst prisoners for the most part on trivial or frivolous grounds. All the cases were carefully handled and kept under proper supervision and treatment. Forced feeding had to be resorted to in some cases where the hunger-strikes lasted for a protracted period.

A very creditable standard of discipline was maintained this year also. From the gradual fall from year to year in the number of punishments inflicted, it would appear that the majority of prisoners are now realising the advantage of adhering closely to jail rules and regulations.

19. *Corporal punishments.*—As in the previous year no corporal punishments were inflicted during the year.

Flogging is now inflicted only in exceptional cases.

20. *Conduct of habituals.*—Out of 4,268 convicts admitted during the year, 788 were habituals. The corresponding figures of the year preceding were 4,273 and 735. The habituals formed 18·46 per cent. of the convict admissions, against 17·20 in 1939. Their conduct on the whole was satisfactory.

The concentration of incorrigible habituals in the jails set apart for them was carried out as far as practicable.

21. *Education of convicts.*—Seven paid qualified teachers (3 permanent and 4 temporary) were employed throughout the year in the larger jails of this province to give elementary instruction to prisoners of 30 years of age and under. The results were distinctly encouraging. The morale of the prisoners, including refractory prisoners who have gradually come to appreciate the benefit of the instruction given, showed distinct signs of improvement. Inspecting officers of the Education Department visited Jail Schools during the year and expressed satisfaction. The instructors in general carried out their work conscientiously and often with enthusiasm.

Selected prisoners were also trained in Ambulance and First-Aid in some of the jails.

22. *Aid on discharge.*—A concise report on the working of the Assam Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December 1940 was received. The Society gave monetary help amounting to Rs. 90 to *ex*-convicts during the period. No reports were received from the District Committees, as their year closes on the 31st March. It is, however, reported that there are signs of greater activities and closer popular interest in the working of these societies.

No order was passed by Government during the year regarding the question of preventing of the appropriation of land belonging to convicts during their incarceration in jails. This problem provides one of the main obstacles to the rehabilitation of prisoners of the cultivator class after their discharge from jail.

23. *Fetters.*—Fetters were imposed on 258 prisoners as a jail punishment, against 323 in the preceding year. Imposition of fetters for safe custody has been greatly restricted, but cannot be altogether abolished owing to the insecure condition of certain jails and a lack of cellular accommodation.

24. *Statement C—Remission System.*—The number of convicts who came under the remission system increased from 1,701 in 1939 to 1,917 during the year under report. None failed to earn remission. The maximum remission earned was 947 days by a convict in the Dibrugarh District Jail and the maximum gratuity of Rs. 25-14-0 was earned by a convict in the same jail. Extra remission for special services was granted to 1,429 convicts, against 2,052 convicts in 1939. Extra remission for continued good conduct was awarded to 1,813 convicts, against 815 in 1939.

The average remission in days gained by convicts for the periods "six months and not exceeding 5 years" was 50 and for all periods combined, 57. The corresponding figures for 1939 were 55 and 64 respectively.

The rules of the remission system are thoroughly explained to the prisoners and they appear to appreciate fully the privilege of being able to shorten their sentences by good work and conduct. This is a valuable incentive to the convicts to do good work and helps a great deal to keep the long term prisoners under proper jail discipline.

25. *Advisory Boards.*—Two meetings of the Advisory Boards were held during the year, *viz.*, one at Sylhet and the other at Gauhati for revision of long-term sentences and the premature release of 49 convicts (37 unconditionally and 12 conditionally) was recommended by the Boards. Government sanctioned the release of 46 convicts (37 unconditionally and 9 conditionally).

This system has greatly improved the behaviour of convicts in jails and is greatly appreciated. None of those released are known to have been recommitted to custody.

No release was effected under the "Good Conduct Prisoners' Release Act" during the year and the various provisions of the Act could not be implemented owing to lack of funds and other difficulties. The matter was, however, left to the "Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society" to see if that Society could make out a feasible scheme.

26. *Convict officers.*—The total number employed as convict officers was 396, against 500 in 1939 and 423 in 1938. The number reduced or otherwise punished was 97, against 112 in 1939. The daily average number of convict officers employed was 272·14, against 274·22 in the previous year and their ratio per cent. to the total daily average number of convicts was 10·43 against 10·41 in 1939.

On the whole the general behaviour and conduct of the convict officers were satisfactory during the year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Nos. IX, XI to XIII

27. *Statement No. IX. Gross expenditure.*—The gross expenditure in guarding and maintaing prisoners during the year under report was Rs.4,35,713 (excluding as usual the outlay on the jail buildings and repairs paid from the contingent grant of the Jail Department and the cost of forms), against Rs.4,06,586 in 1939 showing an increase of Rs.29,127 though the population was less by 21·63. The average cost per head of average strength rose from Rs.126-7-0 in 1939 to Rs.136-6-7 in the year under review.

The increase is mainly due to increased expenditure under the heads establishment charges, dietary charges, sanitation charges, charges for moving prisoners, charges, for other miscellaneous survices and supplies, extraordinary charges for livestock and tools and plant and travelling allowances, as explained under the respective heads of account.

The cost of original works and repairs met from the grant for " Works " of this Department was Rs.19,600-2-0 against Rs.21,745-9-0 in 1939.

The amount spent on the jail buildings borne on the books of the Public Works Department was Rs.22,419-4-0, against Rs.22,911-13-0 in 1939.

28. *Establishment Charges.*—The total expenditure under this head was Rs.1,96,260 against Rs.1,89,605 in 1939, *i.e.*, an increase of Rs.6,655 which was mainly due to the periodical increments in the time scale of pay of jail establishment.

29. *Dietary charges.*—The expenditure under this head rose from Rs.1,23,098 in 1939 to Rs.1,47,294 during the year under report. The rise is due to increase in the rates of dietary articles. The cost per head of average strength was Rs.46-2-0, against Rs.38-4-9 in the previous year.

Fish was issued for the consumption of prisoners in the Tezpur District Jail by obtaining a free supply from a Government *bheel.* The market value of this fish would have been Rs.1,082-10-0.

The question of improving the jail diet with the object of remedying deficiencies in essential constituents is still under the consideration of Government as a result of representation made by the Inspector-General of Prisons based on an analysis of jail diets made by Director of the Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong. It is considered that considerable advantage will be derived if a special nutrition officer be appointed for scrutinising and advising on diets and food generally throughout the province. I understand a proposal to this effect has been made by the Director of Public Health, and is under consideration of the Government.

Vegetables.—The value of vegetables and other garden produce issued to prisoners during the year under report from the jail gardens amounted to Rs.20,856-14-3 against Rs.20,401-0-3, and the amount realised by sale of surplus vegetables to the public was Rs.445-10-6, against Rs.507-8-0 in the year 1939. The expenditure incurred in purchasing vegetables from the market for prisoners' consumption amounted to Rs.3,905-10-0, against Rs.4,117-?-0 in 1939.

30. *Hospital charges.*—The expenditure under this head was Rs.15,674, against Rs 16,358 in the preceding year showing a total decrease of Rs.684. The cost per head of the average number of sick was Rs.263-14-8, against Rs.212-5-9 in 1939. The fall in total amount is due to a decrease in expenditure under the heads " sick diet and extras for patients " and " medicines and hospital bedding, clothing, etc ". The decrease is mainly due to the smaller daily average number of sick *i.e.*, 59·39, against 77·03 in 1939. The cost per head of average number of sick, is however much higher than that for 1939 owing to rise in the prices of medical stores and other articles.

31. *Clothing and bedding.*—The total cost under this head fell from Rs.15,598 in 1939 to Rs.12,344 during the year. The cost per head of average strength, excluding the civil prisoners was Rs.3-13-10, against Rs.4-13-8 in 1939.

32. *Sanitation charges.*—The total expenditure under this head slightly rose from Rs.3,716 in 1939 to Rs.3,862 during the year under report. The rise is due to increased expenditure under the head " charges for water supply".

33. *Charges for moving prisoners.*—The charges for moving prisoners amounted to Rs.10,463, against Rs.9,898 and the average cost per head was Rs.3-4-5, against Rs.3-1-3 in 1939.

34. *Miscellaneous services and supplies.*—The expenditure under this head was Rs.25,555, against Rs.24,471 in the previous year showing a rise of Rs.1,084. The average cost per head was Rs.8, against Rs.7-9-9 in 1939. The rise in total expenditure is mainly due to increased expenditure under the heads "lighting charges", "uniform and accountrements of warders" and "other miscellaneous charges".

35. *Travelling Allowance.*—The total cost under this head slightly rose from Rs.4,732 in 1939 to Rs.4,963 in the year under review.

36. *Contingencies.*—The expenditure under this head was Rs.13,745, against Rs.15,264 in 1939 showing a decrease of Rs.1,519.

37. *Extra ordinary charges for live-stock, tools and plant.*—The expenditure under this head rose from Rs.3,846 in 1939, to Rs.5,556 during the year under report. The rise is due to i creased expenditure under the heads "conservancy and water-supply dead stock" "dietary dead-stock", "lighting d ad-stock", "disciplinary dead-stock", and "oth r miscellaneous dead-sto k". The increase is evidently due to the introduction of jail reforms in supplying brass utensils in place of iron made articles.

38. *Jail dairies.*—As in the previous year there are seven jail dairies in all. These are functioning satisfactorily. The jail dairy at Nowgong, however, was closed temporarily and all the animals were sent to Khanapara Farm as almost all of them were infected with John's disease. It has not yet been re-opened.

The net profit in these dairies amounted to Rs.2,133-7-9 as detailed in the margin, against Rs.2,109-8-3 in 1939. These dairies continue to prove most useful and profitable and have ensured the supply of un-adulterated milk for the sick and convalescent prisoners and where possible to local hospitals.

	Income			*Expenditure*			*Net-profit*		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Silchar	547	5	9	540	14	6	6	7	3
Sylhet	1,495	9	3	1,403	0	6	92	8	9
Gauhati ..	1,624	8	9	862	10	6	761	14	3
Tezpur ..	1,334	3	0	866	3	0	468	0	0
Nowgong ..	....			....			....		
Jorhat	1,420	12	0	812	2	0	608	10	0
Dibrugarh ..	610	7	0	414	7	6	195	15	6
Total ..	7,032	13	9	4,899	6	0	2,133	7	9

39. *Statement No. XI—Employment of convicts.*—The daily average number of convicts under sentence of labour on working days was 2550·60, against 2586·37 in 1939, showing a decrease of 35·77. The percentages of convicts not employed owing to illness or other reasons, and of those employed on various forms of labour, during the two years of 1939 and 1940, are given below:—

	1939	1940
(*a*) Sick	2·66	2·02
(*b*) Convalescent and infirm	5·31	4·70
(*c*) Not employed for other reasons	5·73	5·77
(*d*) On unremunerative labour	2·84	2·82
(*e*) Prison officers	10·60	10·67
(*f*) Prisons servants	26·41	27·13
(*g*) Gardening	8·92	8·94
(*h*) Preparing articles for jail consumption ...	10·29	9·26
(*i*) Jail repairs	0·75	0·96
(*j*) Construction or addition and alterations of jail buildings	0·95	0·55
(*k*) Manufactures	25·51	27·11
(*l*) Public Works	0·03	0·01
(*m*) Extramural employment under Municipalities and Departments of Government, other than Public Works Department.	0·00	0·06
	100·00	100·00

Eleven per cent. of convicts under sentence of labour on working days, were empl yed as prison officers, 27 per cent. as prison servants and 27 per cent. on manufactures, against 11, 26 and 26, respectively, in the previous year.

40. *Statement No. XII-A—Financial Results—General.*—The total amounts drawn from and paid into the treasury were Rs.82,250 and Rs.97,417 respectively, showing a cash profit of Rs.15,167, against Rs.25,661 in 1939. This shows a decrease in cash profit of Rs.10,494 which may be attributed to the fact that most of the smaller jails do not show any profit from the manufactory department due mainly to the non-introduction of any new industry in place of oil pressing by convicts. I agree with my predecessor's remark that the decrease in the cash profit due to the abolition of the system of oil pressing by convicts cannot be avoided unless some profitable industry is introduced in place of it.

The average cash earnings per head of convicts under sentence of labour on working days fell from Rs.9-15-0 in 1939 to Rs.5-15-0 in 1940. The largest cash earnings per head are shown by Tezpur (Rs.14-8-6), Kohima (Rs.11) Shillong (Rs.6-14-0), Gauhati (Rs.6-10-0) and Sylhet (Rs.5-14-0). Goods to the value of Rs.37,537 (actual cost of raw meterials only) were supplied to the jails of Assam, against Rs.33,672 in 1939.

The value of goods supplied to other Departments of Government rose from Rs.17,350 in 1939 to Rs.20,468, showing an increase of Rs.3,118. Sales to the public also rose from Rs.37,026 in 1939 to Rs.39,124 or an increase of Rs.2,098.

The value of goods supplied to other Departments of Government and the public combined amounted to Rs.59,592, against Rs.54,376 in 1939, showing an increase of Rs.5,216.

The receipt from the extramural employment of prisoners amounted to Rs.296, against Rs.239 in 1939.

41. *Statement No. XII-A.—Results of employment on manufactures and labour.*—The net profit amounted to Rs.18,287 and the average profit per head of prisoners under sentence of labour to Rs.7-3-0, against Rs.18,429 and Rs.7-12-0 respectively in 1939. This small decrease in the net profit is mainly due to the following facts :—

(*i*) Manufactured articles to the value of Rs.14,218 were in store at the end of the year, against Rs.13,093 at the end of 1939.

(*ii*) Raw materials to the value of Rs.15,006 were in store at the end of the year, against Rs.10,944 at the end of the previous year.

(*iii*) The fall in prison population.

Silchar.—The number of prisoners employed on manufactures was 4 per cent. against 3 per cent. in 1939. The cash profit amounted to Rs.108 and the average cash earnings per head to Re.1-4-0, against Rs.628 and Rs.7, respectively, in 1939. The fall in cash profit is mainly due to a smaller demand for chowkidari uniforms.

Sylhet.—This jail employed 41 per cent. of convicts under sentence of labour on manufactures, against 39 per cent. in the previous year. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners amounted to Rs.4,056 and Rs.5-14-0 against Rs.11,258 and Rs.15-5-0, respectively, in 1939. The fall in cash earnings may be attributed to—

(*a*) Smaller demand for chowkidari uniforms (only 137 sets were supplied during the year, against 2,100 sets supplied in 1939).

(*b*) Small outturn of bricks owing to unfavourable weather.

This jail is still not in a position to recoup the loss sustained through the abolition of the system of oil—pressing by convicts and I am afraid the earnings of the manufactory department will appreciably fall if Government do not see their way to reconsider their decision regarding the manufacture of chowkidari uniforms by the Government Emporium and Central Stores, Gauhati.

Shillong.—Four per cent. of prisoners under sentence of labour was employed on manufactures, against the same number in the previous year. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners rose from Rs.195 and Rs.4-6-0 in 1939 to Rs.294 and Rs.6-14-0, respectively, in 1940. This increase is mainly due to increased sale of jail-made articles.

Aijal.—This jail employed 6 per cent. of prisoners sentenced to labour on manufactures, against 8 per cent. in 1939. The amounts drawn from and paid into the treasury were Rs.385 and Rs.313, respectively, showing a cash loss of Rs.72, against a cash profit of Rs.52 with an average cash earning per head of prisoners as Rs.7-15-0 in 1939.

The cash loss is due to the purchase of a knitting machine at a cost of Rs.163-2-0 for knitting of stockings. The difficulty in obtaining wool due to the present European war has held up the development of this industry. Out of a demand for 500 pairs of stockings for the men of the Assam Rifles, only 132 pairs could be supplied.

The average net profit per head of prisoner sentenced to labour was Rs.21-7-0 and is the best figure in the Province.

Dhubri.—This jail employed 35 per cent. of prisoners under sentence of labour on manufactures, against 31 per cent. in 1939. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners rose from Rs.93 and Re.1-10-0 in 1939 to Rs.316 and Rs.5-9-0, respectively, in the year under report. The only industries of the jail are the making of bamboo mats and a little cane work.

Gauhati.—Twenty-nine per cent. of the convicts sentenced to labour on working days were employed on manufactures, against 30 per cent. in the previous year. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners amounted to Rs.2,711 and Rs.6-10-0, against Rs.2,764 and Rs.5-6-0, respectively, in 1939. Although the cash earnings are a little less than those of 1939, it may be considered as satisfactory in comparison with the cash earnings of the last five years.

Tezpur.—The number of prisoners under sentence of labour employed on manufactures was 43 per cent. against 34 per cent. in 1939. The cash earnings amounted to Rs.6,111 against Rs.4,984 showing an increase of Rs.1,127 and the cash earnings per head of prisoners rose from Rs.14-4-0 in 1939 to Rs. 14-8-6 in 1940.

This rise in cash earnings may be attributed to—

(*i*) The amount of outstanding bills due to the jail at the end of the year was Rs.173, against Rs.436 in 1939.

(*ii*) The value of manufactured articles remaining in stock at the end of the year amounted to Rs.940. against Rs.1,377 in 1939.

The net profits amounted to Rs.3,869, against Rs.1,957 in 1939 and the average profit per head of prisoners sentenced to labour rose from Rs.5-9-0 in 1939 to Rs.9-3-0 in 1940.

This good result goes to the credit of the Superintendent and the jail staff.

Nowgong.—This jail employed 10 per cent. of prisoners under sentence of labour on manufactures, against 6 per cent. in the previous year. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners rose from Rs.233 and Rs.2-8-0 in 1939 to Rs.500 and Rs.5-1-3, respectively, in 1940.

This increase is mainly due to the co-operation of other Departments of Government and the public in placing orders for jail-made articles.

The net profit and the average profit per head of prisoners also rose from Rs.265 and Rs. 2-14-0 in 1939 to Rs.499 and Rs.5-1-0 respectively in 1940.

Jorhat.—Twenty per cent. of prisoners, under sentence of labour, were employed on manufactures, against the same number in the previous year.

There was a cash loss of Rs.163 against a cash profit of Rs.3,674 in 1939. The reasons for this cash loss are due to :—

(*i*) Smaller demand for jail-made articles.

(*ii*) The value of manufactured articles, raw materials and tools and plant remaining in stock at the end of the year was larger than that of the previous year.

(*iii*) The amount of outstanding dues owing to the jail at the end of the year was greater than in the previous year.

Dibrugarh.—This jail employed 3 per cent. of the prisoners under sentence of labour on manufactures, against 9 per cent. in 1939. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners, amounted to Rs.167 and Re.1-3-0, against Rs.442 and Rs.3-4-0, respectively, in 1939.

The decrease is due to a smaller demand for jail-made articles, the lack of a suitable substitute industry in place of oil-pressing by convicts and a smaller demand for jail labour by the Municipality.

42. *Statement No. XIII—Net cost of the Department.*—The net cost of maintaining the jails and the average net cost per head of average strength during the year under report rose from Rs.3,80,925 and Rs.118-7-0 in 1939 to Rs.4,20,546 and Rs.131-11-0 respectively, in 1940, showing an increase of Rs.39,621 and Rs.13-4-0, respectively. The gross cost of maintenance also rose from Rs.4,06,586 in 1939 to Rs.4,35,713 in 1940 and the gross average cost per head of average strength from Rs.126-7-0 in 1939 to Rs.136-7-0 in 1940, showing an increase of Rs.29,127 and Rs.10, respectively.

The following comparative statement shows the average cost of maintenance and the average cash earnings per head of average strength of prisoners in the jails during 1940 in certain provinces for which figures are available.

	Average cost of maintenance per head of prisoners			Average cash earnings per head of average strength		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Assam	136	7	0	4	12	0
Madras	118	14	0	9	2	0
Punjab	117	6	0	4	12	6
North Western Frontier Province	150	11	0	11	4	0
Behar	127	4	0	15	15	0
Sind	113	0	11	3	3	0

The average cash earnings per head of average strength in the jails of Assam during 1940 was Rs.4-12-0 against Rs. 8 in 1939.

43. *Financial results in individual prisons.*—None of the jails show any surplus. Drawals from treasury amounted to Rs.82,250, against Rs.62,632 in 1939, showing an increase of drawals by Rs.19,618, while a sum of Rs.97,417 was paid into the treasury, including the value of supplies to jails and other Departments of Government, against Rs.88,293 in 1939 showing an increase of Rs.9,124.

The financial side of the jail industry has not improved. The adverse effect caused by the abolition of the system of oil-pressing by convicts still continues and as remarked in the last year's report, no appreciable improvement can be expected without introducing in the place of oil-pressing by convicts some profitable industries in the jails of Assam. Practically all small jails do not show any profit. The question of introducing certain industries in the jails of Assam is still under the consideration of Government.

The chief jail industries of the province are weaving, bamboo and cane work, carpentry, smithery, tailoring, carpet, net-bag and tat-bed making. Carpenters and blacksmiths are trained at Gauhati and Sylhet District Jails. The post of the Weaving Instructor in the Sylhet District Jail has since been made permanent. The improvement in the weaving industry of the Sylhet District Jail has justified making the post of the Instructor permanent. The question of employing a Weaving Instructor at the Tezpur District Jail is still under the consideration of Government. All cotton clothing for the jails of the Surma Valley is supplied from the Sylhet District Jail and that for the jails of the Assam Valley is supplied from the Tezpur District Jail. All woollen clothing for the jails of the Province is supplied from the Sylhet District Jail.

The value of supplies to other Departments of Government rose from Rs.17,350 in 1939 to Rs.20,468 in 1940 showing an increase of Rs.3,118. This increase is due mainly to the co-operation of other Government Departments in placing orders for jail-made articles.

The experiment of employing convicts on conservancy work in lieu of extra remission instead of employing outside sweepers is working satisfactorily in the bigger jails ; but difficulty is being experienced in securing services of convicts for conservancy work in the smaller jails and the bigger jails also sometimes find it difficult to supply convict sweepers for the smaller jails.

I must acknowledge with thanks the co-operation of those Departments of Government and of the public who placed orders with the jails for jail-made articles and I trust they will continue their support in future also.

I must also convey my thanks to the Director of Industries, Assam, for the interest he is taking in the jail industries.

VITAL STATISTICS

44. The following table gives particulars of the sickness and mortality rates among prisoners of all classes during the decennium ending with the year under report :—

Year	Daily average number of prisoners of all classes	Admission to hospital		Daily average sick of of all classes		Deaths from all causes of all classes of prisoners		Provincial death rate
		Number of admission	Ratio per mille	Daily average sick	Ratio per mille	Total number of deaths	Ratio per mille	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1931	2,331·39	2,176	653·18	110·91	33·29	66	19·81	18·68
1932	3,809·19	2,294	602·23	106·19	27·88	71	18·64	18·96
1933	3,804·34	2,135	561·20	98·26	25·83	62	16·30	20·31
1934	4,008·53	2,122	529·37	87·21	21·75	58	14·47	19·64
1935	4,013·67	1,992	496·30	92·64	23·08	87	21·68	21·41
1936	4,018·67	1,686	419·52	92·34	22·97	57	14·18	19·63
1937	3,565·93	1,411	395·69	78·28	21·95	55	15·42	22·21
1938	3,304·12	1,155	349·56	77·89	23·57	64	19·37	22·42
1939	3,215·72	1,092	339·58	77·03	23·95	85	26·43	19·25
1940	3,194·09	816	255·47	59·39	18·59	58	18·16	17·20

The vital statistics of the year under review compare favourably with those of the previous year. The admissions to hospital fell from 1,092 in 1939 to 816 in 1940, and the number of deaths fell from 85 to 58 which includes one case of suicide committed in the Jorhat District Jail. The District Jail at Sylhet and Gauhati are alone responsible for 22 and 11 deaths, respectively.

The ratio per mille of average strength of admission to hospital and the daily average sick also fell from 339·58 and 77·03 in 1939 to 255·47 and 59·39 respectively in 1940.

The percentages of prisoners of all classes admitted to jails in good, indifferent and bad health were 55,38 and 7, respectively, against 55, 39 and 6 in the previous year.

In the Assam Valley Jails 29·48 per cent of convicts admitted were habitual drug eaters and in the Surma Valley 1·95 per cent. against 32·37 and 2·70 per cent respectively in 1939.

45. *Mortality.*—Fifty four out of the total of 58 deaths occurred among convicts and four among undertrials, against 79 and 6, respectively, in the previous year. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength fell from 26·43 in 1939 to 18·16 in the year under report.

The table in the margin shows the number of deaths in the various jails during the past quinquennium. The jails at Silchar, Kohima, Aijal, Karimganj, South Sylhet and North Lakhimpur returned clean mortality sheets.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Silchar	1	1	1	..	..
Sylhet	9	9	20	23	22
Shillong	..	3	..	..	1
Kohima	1	..	..	..	..
Aijal	..	..	..	..	..
Dhubri	1	..	1	3	2
Gauhati	17	19	16	22	11
Tezpur	4	9	13	7	4
Nowgong	1	2	1	..	1
Jorhat	8	5	7	4	3
Dibrugarh	5	5	1	14	4
Sunamganj	..	..	1	1	1
Karimganj	2	..	..	..	..
Habiganj	..	1	1	1	2
South Sylhet ..	1	..	..	..	..
Mangaldai	2	..	..	2	1
Sibsagar	3	..	1	4	4
Golaghat	..	..	1	3	1
North Lakhimpur ..	1	1	..	..	..
Tura	1	..	..	1	1
Total.. ..	57	55	64	85	58

The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength in the jails of Assam is 18·16, against the provincial death rate of 17·20.

The table in the margin showing the death rates of other provincial jail departments, although given for comparison, is of little value for the purpose, as in certain provinces the release of a prisoner on account of sickness is not shown as a jail death, as is the case in Assam and elsewhere.

United Provinces ..	8·4
Punjab	6·76
North-West Frontier Province	6·95
Central Provinces and Berar	12·49
Madras	8·04
Bombay	7·2
Bihar	12·2
Assam	18·16

46. *Silchar.*—This Jail returned a clean mortality sheet as in the previous year. There were 9 admissions to hospital, against 20 in the preceding year. The daily average number of sick fell from 1·09 in 1939 to 0·48 in 1940.

47. *Sylhet.*—There were 22 deaths among convicts, against 23 in the same class of prisoners in the previous year. Of these deaths, 7 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4, due to Nephritis, 3 due to Dysentery, 2 due to Pneumonia, 2 to Malaria and one each to Leprosy, Apoplexy, Tuberculosis of Intestines and Pyelitis. Of the 22 prisoners who died, 10 were admitted to jail in indifferent health and the rest in good health. 5 convicts died on the day following their admission to hospital and one (who was admitted to jail in good health) died of Dysentery the same day he was admitted to hospital. One prisoner, suffering from Nephritis, was released from jail under rule 568(*a*)(v) of the Assam Jail Manual and as such his release was counted as a jail death.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 116 and 26·90 in 1939 to 104 and 22·27, respectively in 1940. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength was 28·75 in 1940, against 28·79 in 1939.

48. *Shillong.*—There was one death among undertrials in this Jail, against none in the previous year, The prisoner was admitted into the jail in a bad state of health and died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis the day following his admission to hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 12 and 0·73 in 1939 to 8 and 0·30 respectively in 1940.

49. *Dhubri.*—Two deaths (one among convicts and one among undertrials) occurred in this jail against 3 among undertrials in the previous year. The undertrial was a female prisoner and was admitted into the jail in a bad state of health. She died of chronic Bronchitis 3 months after her admission to hospital. The convict was admitted into the jail in an indifferent state of health. He was admitted to hospital for *Kala-Azar* and died four months later of Tuberculosis of both lungs while under treatment.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 69 and 3·80 in 1939 to 50 and 2·66, respectively in 1940.

50. *Gauhati.*—There were 10 deaths among convicts and one death among undertrials in this jail, against 21 deaths among convicts and 1 death among under trails in the previous year. Of these, 4 were due to Pneumonia, 2 due to Dysentery, 2 to Tuberculosis of Lungs, and one each to Ankylostomiasis, Secondary Anæmia and Albuminuria with Anæmia. Seven of the prisoners who died, were admitted into the jail in indifferent health and died almost within a month of their admission to hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 237 and 14·84 in 1939 to 197 and 9·85, respectively in 1940. As in the past, this jail recorded the highest number of admissions to hospital during the year in the jails of the province, and although the number of admissions due to Dysentery was appreciably low (76 against 162 in 1939), the large number of admissions to Hospital was mainly due to this disease. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength fell from 39·74 in 1939 to 23·63 in 1940.

51. *Tezpur.*—This jail recorded 4 deaths among convicts against 6 deaths among convicts and one death among undertrials in the previous year. Of these deaths, one occurred out side the jail hospital and was due to Apoplexy. The other three deaths were due respectively to Malaria Broncho-Pneumonia and Peptic Ulcer. One prisoner was admitted into jail in bad health and died within a month of his admission to hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 161 and 8·75 in 1939 to 80 and 5·02, respectively, in 1940.

52. *Nowgong.*—This jail recorded one death among convicts, against none in the previous year. The deceased prisoner was admitted into the jail in good health and died of colitis within a fortnight of his admission to hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose slightly from 35 and 1·51 in 1939 to 36 and 1·81 respectively in 1940.

53. *Jorhat.*—Three deaths (including one case of suicide) occurred in this jail among convicts, against 4 among the same class of prisoners in the previous year. Of these deaths, one was due to Tuberculosis of Intestines and another due to Dysentery.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose from 45 and 3·22 in 1939 to 66 and 5·07, respectively, in 1940.

54. *Dibrugarh.*—This jail recorded 3 deaths among convicts and one among undertrials against 13 deaths among convicts and 1 among undertrials in the previous year. Of these deaths, 2 were due to Dysentery and one each to Pneumonia and Tuberculosis of Lungs. Three of the prisoners who died were admitted into the jail in bad health and one in indifferent health.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 223 and 10·51 in 1939 to 140 and 6·85 respectively in 1940.

55. *Sunamganj.*—One convict died of Lymphangitis, against one in the previous year. The number of admissions to hospitals and the daily average sick rose from 5 and 0·18 in 1939 to 7 and 0·84. respectively, in 1940.

56. *Habigauj.*—Two deaths among convicts occurred in the jail, against one death among such prisoners in the previous year. Deaths were due to Dysentery and Pneumonia, respectively. The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose from 8 and 0·31 in 1939 to 16 and 0·85, respectively, in 1940.

57. *Mangaldai.*—One convict died of Dysentery against two in the previous year. The convict was admitted into the jail in an indifferent state of health and died 17 days after his admission to hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 33 and 1·03 in 1939 to 29 and 0·69, respectivcly, in 1940.

58. *Sibsagar.*—This jail recorded 4 deaths among convicts, against the same number of deaths among convicts in the previous year. Of these deaths, one each was due to Meningitis, Apoplexy, Bronchiectasis and Diarrhœa. One of the convicts entered the jail in bad health and died within 3 days of his admission to hospital. The rest were admitted into jail in indifferent health.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 12 and 0·92 in 1939 to 6 and 0·10, respectively, in 1940.

59. *Golaghat.*—One convict died in this jail against 3 in the preceding year. The convict was admitted into the jail in indifferent health and died of Erysipelas a day after his admission to hospital.

The number of admission to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 11 and 1·19 in 1939 to 8 and 0·79, respectively in 1940.

60. *Tura.*—One convict died in this jail against the same number of death among convicts in the previous year. The convict was admitted into the jail in a good health and died of cerebral malaria 3 days after his admission to hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily averege sick rose from 6 and 0·31 in 1939 to 13 and 0·58, respectively, in 1940.

61. (*a*) *Sickness and Mortality among convicts.*—The daily average number of convicted prisoners showed a slight decline from 2,634·45 in 1939 to 2,609·04 in 1940. There were 638 cases of admissions to hospital giving a daily average of 52·03, against 894 and 68·65, respectively, in 1939. Fifty-four deaths occurred among this class of prisoners, against 79 in the previous year.

(*b*) *Sickness and Mortality among under-trial, civil and State prisoners.—Under-trials.*—The daily average number of undertrial prisoners was 584·55, against 579·56 in 1939. The number admitted to hospital and the daily average number of sick fell from 198 and 8·38 in 1939 to 178 and 7·36 respectively, in 1940. There were four deaths, against six in the previous year.

Civil prisoners.—The daily average number of this class of prisoners was 0·50, against 1·24 in the previous year. As in the previous year there were neither admissions to hospital nor deaths during the year under report.

State prisoners.—There were no State prisoners in the jails during the year under report.

62. The following table shows the number of admissions to hospital and the deaths among convicts against the principal diseases, during the past four years :—

Disease	1937		1938		1939		1940	
	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dysentery.. ..	310	14	264	13	294	21	194	10
Malarial Fever ..	205	..	159	1	182	2	111	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	27	10	37	12	34	12	24	9
Pneumonia	44	10	44	12	34	10	37	8
Ankylostomiasis ..	20	4	15	5	3	..	10	1
Diarrhoea	4	..	7	1	3	..	12	1
Kala-Azar	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	1*

*This patient died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis while under treatment. *Kala-azar* was not recorded in the table for the previous years.

63. *Dysentery.*—There was an appreciable decline in the number of admissions and deaths due to Dysentery in the year under report, *viz.*, 149 admissions and 10 deaths, against 294 admissions and 21 deaths in the previous year. Cases occurred in the jails at Silchar, Sylhet, Kohima, Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Habiganj and Mangaldai. The highest incidence of this disease was at Gauhati (68 admissions and 2 deaths against 153 and 8, respectively, in 1939).

64. *Malaria.*—The incidence of this disease showed a decrease in the number of admissions to hospital but increase in the number of deaths, *viz.*, 111 cases and 4 deaths, against 182 cases and 2 deaths in the previous year. A large number of cases occurred in the Jails at Sylhet, Gauhati, Tezpur, Jorhat, Mangaldai and North Lakhimpur, *viz.*, 13, 15, 13, 14, 14 and 12 respectively.

65. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—There were 24 cases of admissions to hospital and 9 deaths due to this disease during the year, against 34 admissions and 12 deaths in the previous year. Twelve of these cases and seven deaths occurred in the Sylhet Jail in which the majority of the cases throughout the Province are concentrated for treatment. Two cases with two deaths occurred in the Gauhati District Jail.

66. *Pneumonia.*—There were 37 cases of admissions to hospital and 8 deaths due to this disease during the year under report, against 34 admissions and 10 deaths in the previous year. Fourteen cases with 2 deaths and 6 cases with 3 deaths occurred in the jails at Sylhet and Gauhati, respectively, whilst 4 and 8 cases with one death in each jail occurred respectively in the jails at Tezpur and Dibrugarh.

67. *Ankylostomiasis.*—As in the past Hookworm investigation was systematically carried out in all Jails and infected cases were treated until a cure was effected. The number of cases examined was 2,014 and of these 230 or 11·42 per cent. were found to be infected, as against 171 or 9·32 per cent. in 1939. The number of admissions to hospital was 10 against 3 in the previous year and one death occurred due to this disease, against none in the previous year.

68. *Diarrhœa.*—There were 12 cases of admissions to hospital and one death due to this disease during the year, against 3 admissions and no death in the previous year. The death occurred in the Sibsagar Jail.

69. *Release on account of sickness—Two convicts.*—One each from the jails at Sylhet and Mangaldai were released during the year under report on account of sickness under rule 568(*a*) of the Assam Jail Manual, Volume I. The one released from the Mangaldai Jail died subsequently in the Civil Hospital where he was removed for treatment. The prisoner from Sylhet Jail was released under rule 568(*a*) (*v*) of the Assam Jail Manual and as such his release was counted as a jail death. No information is available whether the prisoner thus released is still alive or not.

70. *Statement No. XVII—Mortality according to periods of sentence undergone.*—Of the 54 convicts who died during the year, 23 died within six months of admission, 9 after serving six to 12 months' sentence, 9 between one to two years, 5 between two to three years, 3 between three to seven years and 5 after serving seven years' sentence.

71. *Statement B—Condition of convicts released from Jail.*—The condition of convicts discharged from jails during the year is shown in Statement B.

The following table shows the percentages of convicts who gained or lost weight during the past 4 years :—

——	1937	1938	1939	1940
Neither gained nor lost weight	27·97	27·87	28·87	27·90
Gained weight	56·25	57·31	57 01	57·13
Lost weight	15·78	14·82	14·12	14·67

72. *Sanitary improvements.*—In the Tezpur Jail the Septic Tank was dismantled and a pucca drain was constructed to take the kitchen sullage towards the river. The dirty water from the jail cattle-shed is now drained off and is utilised in the garden instead of accummulating it in a pit which became offensive.

At Habiganj, certain additions and alterations were carried out in the existing female ward to improve the sanitation and ventilation.

At Mangaldai, two pucca drains were constructed to carry off the whole of the sullage effluent from the jail

At Golaghat, one pucca drain was constructed for the passage of water from the bathing platform.

73. *Overcrowding.*—There was no overcrowding in the larger jails except Dibrugarh. In the Jails at Kohima, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Mangaldai, overcrowding lasted for a considerable part of the year. The Jails at Dibrugarh, Karimganj and Golaghat remained overcrowded throughout the whole of the year, while those at South Sylhet and North Lakhimpur remained overcrowded almost throughout the year. Overcrowding in the smaller jails is mainly due to admission of undertrial prisoners in large number and to detention of convicts awaiting result of their appeals.

MISCELLANEOUS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

74. *Religious instructors.*—Religious instructors were appointed for thirteen Jails in this Province as in the previous years and the visits paid by them in each of these Jails are shown below:—

—	Silchar	Sylhet	Shillong	Dhubri	Gauhati	Tezpur	Nowgong	Jorhat	Dibrugarh	Sunamganj	Karimganj	Sibsagar	Golaghat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Hindu	49	52	..	..	46	19	36	47	41	31	..	..	5
Muslim	54	55	19	2	36	15	54	51	37	35	35	4	21

There were no Hindu religious instructors appointed for the Karimganj and Sibsagar District Jails. It is desirable that Hindu instructors should be appointed to these Jails and the matter is recommended for consideration. Hindu religious instructors of the Shillong and Dhubri District Jails paid no visits at all. Unless satisfactory explanations are forthcoming, suitable substitutes should be appointed in their places. The attendance of the Hindu instructor at Golaghat and that of the Muslim instructors at Dhubri and Sibsagar were very poor.

Local Christian Missionaries delivered moral lectures to the prisoners of the Sylhet and Aijal District Jail.

75. *Jail Libraries.*—As usual a recurring grant of Rs.300 was allotted for the improvement of the Jail libraries. This grant is considered insufficient to maintain an adequate number of suitable books for literate prisoners, in view of the fact that increasing importance is now being attached to the provision of books to enable them to make rational and beneficial use of their leisure time.

A further grant of Rs.90 was sanctioned during the year for supplying approved newspapers to the "C" Division prisoners.

76. *Expenditure on Jail buildings.*—The amount spent by the Public Works Department on Jail buildings during the year under report was Rs.22,419, against Rs.22,912 in the previous year.

Out of a grant of Rs.15,000 for minor works during the year, a sum of Rs.14,184 was utilised for works of imperative necessity and the balance of Rs.816 was spent on completing works of the preceding year. Out of the works undertaken during the year the following are the more important ones:—

			Rs.
1. Construction of two cells for condemned prisoners in the Sylhet District Jail.	...	...	2,058
2. Construction of a Hospital building in the Habiganj District Jail.	...	...	3,350
3. Extension of dining shed and feeding platform of the Gauhati District Jail.	...	...	1,551
4. Construction of a fly-proof kitchen and providing ejector truck in the Sibsagar District Jail. (The work is in progress now)	...	...	2,585
5. Certain improvements to the night latrines in wards Nos. A, B, C and D of the Tezpur District Jail.	...	...	800
6. Providing four corner lights in the Dibrugarh District Jail	...	...	523

The Departmental grant for petty construction was Rs.14,000. The whole amount was allotted for petty works of which the following are mentioned as being the more important ones :—

		Rs.
1.	Reconstruction of the Assistant Jailer's quarters attached to the North Lakhimpur District Jail.	2,104
2.	Reconstruction of sleeping barrack No.VI in the Jorhat District Jail	1,225
3.	Construction of a Hospital building in the South Sylhet District Jail	2,586
4.	Construction of a two unit cell block in the Sibsagar District Jail ...	1,350
5.	Reconstruction of the bamboo palisade round the Sunamganj District Jail.	791
6.	Certain additions and alterations to the Hospital building of the Tura District Jail.	655
7.	Construction of a female ward in the Sibsagar District Jail ...	300

77. *Statement A—Accommodation.*—The total accommodation in the Jails of the Province at the end of the year was for 4,290 prisoners—a net increase of 115 on the previous year's figure. The following alterations were made in the accommodation in the Jails :—

(1) Provision of accommodation for 2 female prisoners in the Aijal Jail.

(2) Accommodation for 94 prisoners in the Jorhat Jail was not shown in the return of the previous year of the Jail through oversight.

(3) Construction of 2 observation cells in the Jorhat Jail.

(4) Conversion of the workshed of the Mangaldai Jail into a barrack providing accommodation for 18 more undertrial prisoners.

(5) Conversion of the workshed in the Golaghat Jail which provided accommodation for 9 undertrial prisoners, into a barrack providing accommodation for 18 convicts—the total accommodation of the Jail being increased by 9.

(6) Reduction of accommodation by 5 in the Tezpur Jail consequent upon the readjustment of the accommodation in the "B" Division ward in that Jail.

(7) Reduction of accommodation by 5 in the female ward of the Sibsagar Jail owing to certain additions and alterations in that ward.

Two cell accommodations were wrongly shown in the return of the Golaghat Jail in 1939. These two accommodations exist in the segregation ward and have been shown under Hospital in the year under report.

78. *Provincial Statement A—Visits.*—The total number of visits paid by official and non-official visitors during the year under report was 5,979, against 6,051 in 1939. His Excellency the Governor of Assam visited the District Jails at Silchar, Kohima, Aijal, Dhubri, Nowgong, South Sylhet and Tura. The Hon'ble Minister incharge of Jails visited the District Jails at Silchar, Sylhet (thrice), Gauhati (twice), Tezpur (four times), Nowgong (twice), Jorhat (twice), Dibrugarh, Mangaldai (twice), Sibsagar, Karimganj and Golaghat (twice). The total number of visits made by the Commissioner of Divisions to the Jails was 14. Almost all the important Jails were visited by him.

The District Officers and Civil Surgeons paid 67 and 35 visits respectively, within their districts in their capacity as *ex-officio* visitors. The Visiting Boards paid 64 visits and individual members of such Boards, 170. The total number of visits paid by the lady visitors was 12.

79. *Inspections*—The Inspector General of Prisons, Assam, visited and Inspected the District Jails at Silchar, Sylhet Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Karimganj, South Sylhet, Sibsagar, Golaghat and Tura.

80. *Conduct of Jail Establishment.*—The total strength of permanent warders was 336 in the year under report. The above strength includes 12 female warders and 15 male warders attached to the Magistrates' Lock-ups at Hailakandi, Barpeta and Goalpara.

The number of warders punished during the year was 99, against 138 in the previous year. One warder was dismissed, 53 were fined, 46 punished otherwise against 3, 57 and 78 reepectively in the year 1939.

A new scheme was submitted to Government for an increase in the strength of male waders for ordinary watch and ward in proportion to the Jail population and in order to reduce the hours of duty. It was stressed that at least 20 more warders were urgently needed and were indispensable. Government sanctioned the entertainment of 10 additional warders only in 1939 and whilst this has given some relief to the warder staff the necessity for 10 more warders is keenly felt. It is hoped that Government will take early action in the matter.

81. *General features of ths year.*—Salient features of the year are :—

(1) Introduction of certain Reforms as enumerated under paragraph 3 of the report.

(2) A rise in the number of admissions, but a fall in the daily average number confined.

(3) A slight decrease in the number of admissions of male and a slight increase in that of female convicted prisoners.

(4) A slight increase in the daily average number of undertrials and also an increase in their average period of detention.

(5) A slight increase in the number of convicts sentenced to simple imprisonment.

(6) A decrease in the number of juveniles admitted.

(7) An increase in the number of admissions of previously convicted prisoners.

(8) An increase in the number of escapes from custody.

(9) A decrease in the number of offences and punishments.

(10) A complete absence of corporal punishment for Jail offences.

(11) The training of selected prisoners in "Ambulance" and "First Aid".

(12) The continued employment of paid teachers (3 permanent and 4 temporary) for the education of convicts.

(13) An increase in the number of prisoners released under the remission rules.

(14) The continued successful working of the Advisory Board. Scheme for premature release.

(15) Assistance given by the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society to *ex*-convicts.

(16) An increase in the total expenditure and average cost per head.

(17) A slight increase in the profit for Jail Dairies.

(18) A fall in the average cash earnings.

(19) A rise in the sale of manufactured articles to the public.

(20) An increase in the supply of manufactured articles to other Departments of Government.

(21) A marked decrease in the total number of deaths from 85 to 58 and the ratio of deaths per mille fell from 26·43 to 18·16.

(22) A marked fall in the total number of adissions to Hospitals.

(23) Arrangement with the Police Department for the training of Jailers Staff and Warders in squad drill and musketry continued during the year.

82. *Detenus.*—There was no detenu confined in Jail at the beginning of the year and none were admitted during the year.

83. *Appointment of Subdivisional Medical Officers as Superintendent of Jails at Subdivisional Headquarters.*—The arrangement of holding the combined administrative and medical charges of the jails at Subdivisional Headquarters by the Subdivisional Medical Officers has continued to work satisfactorily.

84. *Conduct of Officers.*—The general standard of work and conduct of jail officials has been uniformly good during the year.

I repeat this year the recommendation made by Lt. Colonel L. A. P. Anderson, I. M. S. in his report last year, that the status of the Jailers should be raised to Gazetted rank. The reasons for this very desirable reform have not lost their urgency with the passage of time. This reform was strongly recommended by the Indian Jails Committee of 1919-20. The heavy responsibilities and multifarious duties of these officers and the paramount importance of maintaining discipline among the subordinate staff and the prisoners, undoubtedly demand that these officers should be granted a status and position which Gazetted rank alone can give It is both anomalous and undesirable that they should rank with their subordinates.

Head Office.—There was a change in the post of Personal Assistant, Dr. M. G. Hussain, M. B. relieving Dr. D. Hazarika on the 16th May 1940. The routine work was efficiently carried on under the general supervison of the Personal Assistant. Babu Tomonash Shome, Babu Rasik Chandra De, Head Assistants, and Maulvi Md. Habibullah, Assistant, of the Jail Branch of my office have worked with care and efficiency during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. M. V. HESTERLOW,

Lt.-Colonel, I.M.S.,

Inspector-General of Prisons, Assam.

General Summary.

Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all classes confined in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

1		2			3			4			5			6			7			8		
Classes of prisoners		Remained at the commencement of the year			Received during the year			Total			Discharged from all causes			Remaining at the end of the year			Daily average number of each class			Total daily average of whole Jail		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Total	Convicts ..	2,659	29	2,688	5,855	99	5,954	8,514	128	8,642	5,947	92	6,039	2,567	36	2,603	2,577·55	31·49	2,609·04			
	Under-trial ..	672	11	683	7,858	150	8,008	8,530	161	8,691	8,019	152	8,171	511	9	520	575·61	8·94	584·55			
	Civil	..	..	..	5	..	5	5	..	5	5	..	5	..	..	..	·50	..	·50	3,153·66	40·43	3,194·09
	State	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Total		3,331	40	3,371	13,718	249	13,967	17,049	289	17,338	13,971	244	14,215	3,078	45	3,123	3,153·66	40·43	3,194·09	..	..	..
Total for 1939	Convicts ..	2,590	33	2,623	5,859	93	5,952	8,449	126	8,575	5,790	97	5,887	2,659	29	2,688	2,604·81	29·64	2,634·45			
	Under-trial ..	532	3	535	7,758	139	7,897	8,290	142	8,432	7,618	131	7,749	672	11	683	570·57	8·99	579·56			
	Civil	1	..	1	15	..	15	16	..	16	16	..	16	..	..	..	1·24	..	1·24	3,177·09	38·63	3,215·72
	State	2	..	2	2	..	2	4	..	4	4	..	4	..	..	..	·47	..	·47			
Total for 1939 ..		3,125	36	3,161	13,634	232	13,866	16,759	268	17,027	13,428	228	13,656	3,331	40	3,371	3,177·09	38·63	3,215·72	..	..	..

STATEMENT No.I.—(JUDICIAL)—

Showing the number and disposal of the Convicts in the

	1		2		3		4					
							Received by					
							A					
							To undergo sentence					
	Remained at the close of the previous year		Imprisoned during the present year		Total		From jails in the province		From subsidiary jails to district jails in the province		From jails outside the province	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ..	2,659	29	4,191	77	6,850	106	1,625	22	..	..	38	..
Total for 1939 ..	2,590	33	4,203	70	6,793	103	1,619	23	..	..	37	..

STATEMENT No.I.—(JUDICIAL)—

Showing the number and disposal of the Convicts in the

	7										8		9	
	Released during the year													
	A		B		C		D							
							By order of Government							
							(a)		(b)					
	On appeal		On expiry of sentence		Under remission rules		On account of sickness		On other grounds		Transported beyond seas		Transferred to lunatic asylum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ..	387	6	1,779	48	1,903	14	2	..	65	1	..	..	3	..
Total for 1939 ..	430	7	1,749	53	1,690	11	1	..	91	1	..	..	5	..

(For Convicts only)

Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

transfer				5			6				
B				Grand Total			Transferred to other jails				
In transit for transportation or to other jails							A		B		
From jails in the province		From jails outside the province					To undergo sentence		For transportation beyond seas, etc.		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	
..	..	1	..	8,514	128	8,642	1,733	22	18	..	Total.
..	..	..	..	8,449	126	8,575	1,706	24	36	..	Total for 1939.

(For Convicts only)—*concld.*

Jails of Assam during the year 1940—concld.

10		11		12		13		14			
Escaped but not recaptured		Executed		Died		Remaining at the end of the present year		Daily average number			
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	
1	..	3	..	53	1	2,567	36	2,577·55	31·49	2,609·04	Total.
2	..	2	..	78	1	2,659	29	2,604·81	29·64	2,634·45	Total for 1939.

STATEMENT No. II.—

Showing the Religion, Age, state of Education and previous occupation of the Convicts

	1 Religion															
	A Christian						B		C		D		E	
	a Europeans		b Eurasians		c Indians		Muslims		Hindus and Sikhs		Buddhists and Jains		All other classes	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ..	..	..	..	..	22	..	1,621	16	2,301	42	..	..	247	19
Total for 1939	1	..	..	..	22	..	1,836	9	2,078	40	2	..	264	21

STATEMENT No. II.—

Showing the Religion, Age, state of Education and previous occupation of the Convicts

	3 Education				Previous			
	A Literate		B Illiterate		Males			
					A	B	C	D
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Persons employed under Government or municipal or other local authorities	Professional persons	Persons in service or performing personal office	Persons engaged in agriculture and with animals
Total ..	139	..	4,052	77	26	72	576	2,864
Total for 1939	80	..	4,123	70	22	29	859	2,973

(JUDICIAL)—FOR CONVICTS ONLY

admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

2												
Age												
A		B		C		D		E		F		
Under sixteen years		Sixteen to twenty-one years		Twenty-two to thirty years		Thirty-one to forty years		Forty-one to sixty years		Above sixty years		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
7	..	244	12	1,899	23	1,177	19	805	22	59	1	Total.
10	..	283	8	1,895	25	1,159	20	783	14	73	3	Total for 1939.

(JUDICIAL)—FOR CONVICTS ONLY—*concld.*

admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1939—concld.

4							5			
occupation										
			Females				Total			
E	F	G	H	I	J	K				
Persons engaged in commerce and trade	Persons engaged in mechanical arts, and manufactures, and engineering operations, etc., etc.	Miscellaneous persons not classed otherwise	Married	Unmarried	Widows	Prostitutes	M.	F.	Total	
87	37	529	63	1	12	1	4,191	77	4,268	Total.
72	57	186	40	4	24	2	4,203	70	4,273	Total for 1939.

STATEMENT No. III.—

Showing the Convicts admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1940 and those

	1	2											
	Nature of imprisonment of those admitted as explained at foot	Number according to											
		A		B		C		D		E		F	
		Not exceeding one month		Above one month, and not exceeding three months		Above three months, and not exceeding six months		Above six months, and not exceeding one year		Above one year, and not exceeding two years		Above two years, and not exceeding five years	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	A	79	1	12	3	13	..	20	..	1	..	..	..
	B	520	11	1,052	30	1,096	21	802	3	304	1	186	4
	C	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	D	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total of admissions ..	..	599	12	1,065	33	1,109	21	822	3	306	1	187	4
Total remaining on the 31st December, 1940.	..	88	3	256	5	412	9	581	..	357	1	413	8
Total for 1939 ..	A	91	1	15	1	6	2	12	..	..	..	..	..
	B	470	13	1,096	25	1,170	22	721	4	302	..	212	..
	C	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	D	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7	..
Total of admissions ..	..	561	14	1,111	26	1,176	24	733	4	304	..	219	..
Total remaining on the 31st December, 1939.	..	69	2	211	3	721	9	393	1	373	..	451	3

A.—Prisoners sentenced to
B.— Ditto ditto
C.— Ditto ditto
D.— Ditto ditto

STATEMENT No IV.—(JUDICIAL)—

Showing the Convicts admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1940

	1			2									A	
	Number admitted direct during the year			A			B			C			Number imprisoned for the first time in default of finding security under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code	
				Number in column 3 identified as 'habituals' before conviction and classified as such by the convicting court			Number in column 3 classified as 'habituals' by the District Magistrate or Magistrate specially empowered (not being the convicting Court)			Number in column 3 classified as 'habituals' by the Jail Superintendent				
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Total ..	4,191	77	4,268	784	4	788	..	..	..	..	..	..	278	..
Total for 1939..	4,203	70	4,273	730	4	734	..	..	..	1	..	1	280	..

(JUDICIAL)—(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

remaining on the 31st December of that year, according to the nature and length of sentence.

length of sentence										3			
G		H		I				J					
Above five years, and not exceeding ten years		Exceeding ten years		Sentenced to transportation beyond seas				Sentenced to death		Total			
				a For life		b For a term							
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	4	129	Total.
64	..	7	..	27	3	..	..	5	..	4,063	73	4,136	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	
64	..	7	..	27	3	..	..	5	..	4,191	77	4,268	Total of admissions.
280	1	35	..	144	9	..	..	1	..	2,567	36	2,603	Total remaining on the 31st December, 1940.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	4	128	Total for 1939.
60	2	5	..	25	..	..	..	8	..	4,069	66	4,135	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	9	
61	2	5	..	25	..	..	..	8	..	4,203	70	4,273	Total of admissions.
268	1	17	..	154	10	1	..	1	..	2,659	29	2,688	Total remaining on the 31st December, 1939.

simple imprisonment.
rigorous ditto.
ditto ditto with solitary confinement.
ditto ditto with whipping.

(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

who had been previously convicted.

3								4			5						
B						C											
Number imprisoned in default of finding security under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or convicted under Chapters XII, XVI, XVII and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code, with previous convictions under any of those chapters or under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code						Total		Ratio per cent. of column 3 (c) to column 1			Youthful offenders under 15 years of age (Reformatory Schools Act VIII of 1897)						
Once previously convicted		Twice previously convicted		More than twice previously convicted							A Number admitted during the year			B Number previously convicted			
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
340	3	73	1	93	..	784	4	19	5	18	5	..	5	2	..	2	Total
338	4	39	..	74	..	731	4	17	6	17	6	..	6	1	..	1	Total for 1939

STATEMENT No. V.—(JUDICIAL)—(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

Showing the escapes and recaptures of Convicts in the Jails of Assam, during the year 1940.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. VI

STATEMENT No. VI—

Showing the offences committed by the Convicts and the Punishments

	1	2	3										4
			Offences dealt with by Superintendents										
			Relating to work		Relating to prohibited articles		Relating to assaults, mutiny and escapes		All other breaches of Jail rules		Total		
	Daily average population	Offences dealt with by criminal courts	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	By criminal courts.
Total ..	2,609·04	13	92	10	168	48	100	72	330	70	690	200	13
Total for 1939.	2,634·45	2	127	21	148	103	83	60	335	95	693	279	2

(JUDICIAL)—(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

inflicted on them, in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

5						6							7	8	9	10	11	
Punishments Inflicted																		
By Superintendents																		
Minor						Major												
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)						
Warnings	Penal diet	Separate, cellular and solitary confinement	Handcuffing and link fetters	Other punishments	Total	Separate, cellular and solitary confinement	Penal diet with solitary confinement	Fetters and handcuffing behind or to a staple	Corporal punishments	Combination of minor punishments	Other punishments	Total	Grand total of punishments	Ratio of column 5 *f* to column 1	Ratio of column 6*g* to column 1	Ratio of column 7 to column 1	Ratio of column 6*d* to column 7	
264	..	4	182	240	690	8	..	76	..	..	116	200	903	26·45	7·67	34·61	..	Total
156	9	10	183	335	693	6	1	140	..	4	128	279	974	26·31	10·59	36·97	..	Total for 1939.

STATEMENT No. VII.—(JUDICIAL)

Showing the employment of Convicts as prison officers

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India)

STATEMENT No. VIII.—(FINANCIAL)

Showing the scales of diet in force in the Jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No.IX.—

Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails of Assam

	1				2					
	Daily average number of prisoners				Establishment				Dietary	
					A	B	C	D	A	B
	Convicts	Under-trial	Civil	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Rations	Miscellaneous dietary charges
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	2,609·04	584·55	·50	3,194·09	1,92,601	3,659	1,96,260	61 6 7	1,45,159	178
Total for 1939..	2,634·45	579·56	1·71*	3,215·72	1,85,302	4,303	1,89,605	58 15 5	1,20,770	194

* Includes ·74 State prisoners.

STATEMENT No.IX.—

Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails of Assam

	5		6						
	Clothing and bedding of prisoners		Sanitation charges					Charges for	
	A	B	A	B	C	D	E	A	B
	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength excluding civil prisoners.	Charges for conservancy, cleansing and purifying	Charges for water-supply	Extraordinary charges	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Transfer charges and road subsistence of convicts	Transportation charges
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	12,344	3 13 10	3,324	538	..	3,862	1 3 4	10,463	..
Total for 1939..	15,598	4 13 8	3,453	263	..	3,716	1 2 6	9,898	..

(FINANCIAL)

during the year 1940 (excluding the cost of building new Jails, of Additions, Alterations and Repairs)

3				4							
charges				Hospital charges							
C	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Garden and agricultural expenses	Proportion of dairy expenses	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength, excluding civil prisoners	Sick diet and extras for patients	Extras or special diet for weakly prisoners not in hospital	Medicines, medical stores, hospital-bedding, clothing, etc.	Proportion of dairy expenses	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Cost per head of average number sick	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1,734	223	1,47,294	46 2 0	4,931	1,774	7,147	1.822	15,674	4 14 6	263 14 8	Total
2,051	83	1,23,098	38 4 9	5,833	1,629	8,990	—94	16,358	5 1 5	212 5 9	Total for 1939

(FINANCIAL)—*contd.*

during the year 1938 (excluding the cost of building new Jails, of Additions, Alterations and Repairs)—contd.

7		8								
moving prisoners		Charges for other miscellaneous services and supplies								
C	D	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Lighting charges	Disciplinary charges	Annual expenses for uniform and accoutrements of warders	Money payments as reward for recaptures and services	Execution charges	Other miscellaneous charges	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	
Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
10,463	3 4 5	9,037	190	7,698	2,983	8	5,639	25,555	8 0 0	Total
9,898	3 1 3	8,373	181	7,103	3,184	56	5,574	24,471	7 9 9	Total for 1939

STATEMENT No. IX.—

Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails of Assam

	9		10									
	Travelling allowances		Contingencies								Extra	
	A	B	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	A	B
	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Rents, rates and taxes	Service postage	Telegram and telephone charges	Current office expenses including country stationery	Office furniture	Charges for registers and stationery (Stationery Department charges)	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Conservancy and water-supply dead-stock	Dietary dead-stock
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	4,963	1 8 10	9,724	2,548	765	534	33	141	13,745	4 4 11	1,901	2,136
Total for 1939	4,732	1 7 7	10,804	2,335	867	598	425	235	15,264	4 11 11	1,026	1,292

(FINANCIAL)—*concld.*

during the year 1940 (excluding the cost of building new Jails, of Additions, Alterations and Repairs)—concld.

11										12		
ordinary charges for live-stock tools and plant likely to last for three years and upwards												
C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L			
Hospital dead-stock	Garden and agricultural plant	Lighting dead-stock	Disciplinary dead-stock	Arms and accoutrements (original cost)	Dairy live-stock and plant (excluding maintenance)	Draught cattle (excluding keep which goes under 8 F)	Other miscellaneous dead-stock	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Grand total of expenditure	Total cost per head of average strength	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
95	92	189	430	18	2	70	620	5,553	1 11 10	4,35,713	136 6 7	Total
115	152	91	159	50	—20	470	511	3,846	1 3 2	4,06,586	126 7 0	Total for 1939.

STATEMENT No. X.—(FINANCIAL)

Showing the expenditure in guarding and maintaining the prisoners in the jails of Assam (excluding the cost of building new jails, etc.). Compared with the expenditure on the same account in each of the three preceding years.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India)

STATEMENT No. XI

STATEMENT No.

Showing the employment of Convicts in the

	1	2	3	4	5	6				
						Average number employed				
						On prison duties				
						A	B	C	D	E
	Average number not sentenced to labour	Average number under sentence of labour on working days	Average number sick	Average number convalescent and infirm	Average number not employed for other reasons	On unremunerative labour	Prison officers	Prison servants	Gardening	Employed in preparing articles for use or consumption in jail, *e.g.*, wheat-grinding, manufacturing of prison clothing, etc.
Total ..	15·99	2,550·60	51·46	119·88	147·11	72·04	272·14	691·86	227·91	236·20
Total for 1939 ..	18·96	2,586·37	68·65	137·46	148·24	73·32	274·22	682·93	230·77	266·26

XI.—(FINANCIAL)

Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

on working days							7	8			
On jail buildings					K	L	Number of prisoners hired out to municipalities, private individuals, or departments other than the Public Works Department	Ratio per cent. on column 2 of those employed on working days as—			
F	Additions and alterations		New jails								
	G	H	I	J							
Jail repairs	Under Superintendent	Under Public Works Department	Under Superintendent	Under Public Works Department	Manufactures	Public Works		Prison officers	Prison servants	On manufactures	
24·60	9·16	3·01	1·54	23	691·56	·35	1·55	11	27	27	Total.
19·32	14·59	5·41	4·46	..	659·66	·97	·11	11	26	26	Total for 1939.

STATEMENT No. XII.—(FINANCIAL)

Showing the net cash earnings of convicts sentenced to labour in the jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. XII-A

STATEMENT No.

Showing the result of the employment of convicts on Manufactures and

—	1	2				
		Debits				
	Average number sentenced to labour	Cash in hand at the end of the previous year	Value of manufactured articles in store at the end of the previous year	Value of raw materials in store at the end of the previous year	Amount of outstanding bills due by the jails at the end of the year including bills for supplies from jails and other departments of Government remaining unadjusted at the end of the year	Amount of outstanding bills due to the Jails at the end of the previous year including bills for supplies made to Jails and other departments remaining unadjusted at the end of that year.
		A	B	C	D	E
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	2,550·60	2,292	13,093	10,944	1,067	7,812
Total for 1939 ..	2,586·37	1,874	17,814	12,523	213	8,836

	Credits					
	Amount of outstanding bills due by the jails at the end of the previous year, including bills for supplies from jails and other departments of Government remaining unadjusted at the end of that year	Amount of outstanding bills due to the jails at the end of the year, including bills for supplies made to jails and other departments remaining unadjusted at the end of the year	Value of plant and machinery in store at the end of the year	Amount paid into the treasury in cash during the year, *plus* value of goods, etc., supplied to jails and other departments of Government bills for which have been adjusted during the year	Value of prison labour on major works costing over Rs.500	Total
	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total..	213	8,925	11,677	97,417	156	1,47,874
Total for 1939 ..	144	7,812	12,129	88,293	881	1,35,588

XII-A.—(Financial)

Extramural Labour in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

			3			
			Credits			
Value of plant and machinery at the end of the previous year	Amount drawn from the treasury on account of manufactures *plus* value of goods, etc., received from other jails and departments of Government bills for which have been adjusted, during the year.	Total	Cash in hand at the end of the year	Value of manufactured articles in store at the end of the year	Value of raw materials in store at the end of the year	
F	G	H	A	B	C	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
12,129	82,250	1,29,587	262	14,218	15,006	Total.
13,267	62,632	1,17,159	2,292	13,093	10,944	Total for 1939.

4			5			
Excess of credits or net profits	Average profits per head sentenced to labour	Excess of debits or loss	Excess of 3G over 2G or profit	Average cash profit per head of number sentenced to labour	Excess of 2G over 3G or cash loss	
A	B	C	A	B	C	
Rs.	Rs. a.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a.	Rs.	
18,287	7 3	..	15,167	5 15	..	Total.
18,429	7 12	..	25,661	9 15	..	Total for 1939.

STATEMENT No.

Showing the net cost of the prisoners in the

	1	2	3
	Total cost of maintenance (column 12, Statement No. IX)	Average cost of maintenance per head (column 12, Statement No. IX)	Total cash earnings (column 5A, Statement No. XIIA)
	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
Total ..	4,35,713 0	136 7	15,167 0
Total for 1939 ..	4,06,586 0	126 7	25,661 0

STATEMENT No.

Showing the sickness and mortality among Prisoners of all Classes

1		2			3			4			5		
Class of prisoners		Number of persons that can be accommodated in the parts of the jails devoted to convicts, under-trials, and civil prisoners, respectively, but exclusive of hospital and observation cells			Average daily strength			Maximum population on any one day			Number admitted into hospital		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Total	Convicts ..	3,411	126	3,537	2,577·55	31·49	2,609·04	..	..	..	628	10	638
	Under-trial ..	352	13	365	575·61	8·94	584·55	..	..	..	173	5	178
	Civil	26	..	26	·50	..	·50	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Detenu	30	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..		3,819	139	3,958	3,153·66	40·43	3,194·09	..	..	..	801	15	816
Total for 1939 ..	Convicts ..	3,265	129	3,394	2,604·81	29·64	2,634·45	..	..	..	877	17	894
	Under-trial ..	343	13	356	570·57	8·99	579·56	..	..	..	193	5	198
	Civil	26	..	26	1·24	..	1·24	..	..	..	..	..	..
	State	..	..	..	·47	..	·47	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..		3,634	142	3,776	3,177·09	38·63	3,215·72	..	..	..	1,070	22	1,092

XIII.—(FINANCIAL)

Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

4	5	6	
Average cash earnings per head of average strength	Net cost to Government (column 1 *minus* column 3)	Average net cost per head of average strength (column 2 *minus* column 4)	
Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	
4 12	4,20,546 0	131 11	Total.
8 0	3,80,925 0	118 7	Total for 1939.

XIV—(VITAL)

in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

6			7			8												
Daily average number sick			Number of deaths in and out of hospital			Ratio per mille of average strength												
						A			B			C			D			
						Of admission into hospital			Of daily average number sick			Of deaths from all causes except cholera			Of deaths from all causes, both in and out of hospital			
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M	F.	Total	
51·42	·61	52·03	53	1	54	243·64	317·56	244·53	19·95	19·37	19·94	20·56	31·76	20·70	20·56	31·76	20·70	Total.
7·09	·27	7·36	3	1	4	300·55	559·28	304·51	12·32	30·20	12·59	5·21	111·86	6·84	5·21	11·86	6·84	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
58·51	·88	59·39	56	2	58	253·99	371·01	255·47	18·55	21·77	18·59	17·76	49·47	18·16	17·76	49·47	18·16	
67·54	1·11	68·65	78	1	79	336·68	573·55	339·35	25·93	37·45	26·06	29·94	33·74	29·99	29·94	33·74	29·99	Total for 1939.
8·07	·31	8·38	6	..	6	338·26	556·17	341·64	14·14	34·48	14·46	10·52	..	10·35	10·52	..	10·35	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
75·61	1·42	77·03	84	1	85	336·78	569·51	339·58	23·80	36·76	23·95	26·44	25·89	26·43	26·44	25·89	26·43	

STATEMENT No. XV.—(VITAL)

Showing the admissions and deaths from the chief diseases among the Convicts in the Jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. XVI.—(VITAL)

Showing the mortality among Convicts in the jails of Assam according to length of original sentence.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT

Showing the Mortality among the Convicts in the Jails of

—	1			2			3		
	Not exceeding six months in Jail			Above six months, and not exceeding one year			Above one year, and not exceeding two years		
	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number
Total ..	1,274·65	23	18·04	483·31	9	18·62	355·57	9	25·31
Total for 1939 ..	1,350·02	32	23·70	479·39	7	14·60	321·00	14	43·61

STATEMENT

Showing particulars regarding Prisoners under trial

—	1		2		3			4			5		
	Number remaining at the end of the previous year		Number received		Total			Daily average number			Released		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Total ..	672	11	7,858	150	8,530	161	8,691	575·61	8·94	584·55	5,293	106	5,399
Total for 1939 ..	532	3	7,758	139	8,290	142	8,432	570·57	8·99	579·56	5,046	89	5,135

No. XVII.—(VITAL)

Assam during the year 1940, according to the length of time passed in Jails.

4			5			6			7			
Above two years, and not exceeding three years			Above three years, and not exceeding seven years			Above seven years			Total			
Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	
183·60	5	27·23	205·76	3	14·58	120·17	5	41·61	2,623·06	54	20·59	Total
212·14	10	47·14	199·75	10	50·06	89·33	6	67·17	2,651·63	79	29·79	Total for 1939.

No. XVIII

in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

6			7		8		9		10			
Convicted and sentenced			Transferred		Escaped		Died		Remaining on 31st December 1940			
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	
2,387	33	2,420	331	12	5	..	3	1	511	9	520	Total.
2,241	30	2,271	322	12	3	..	6	..	672	11	683	Total for 1939.

STATE

Showing the nature and amount of accommodation for each class of prisoners

Description of accommodation		Number of prisoners who could be accommodated on the 31st							
		Hospital		Observation cells		Civil prisoners		Under-trials	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total ..	Cells	..	..	39	2	..	..	..	..
	Barracks, with separate sleeping accommodation.	270	12	4	..	26	..	352	13
	Ditto without ditto.	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
	Total ..	275	12	43	2	26	..	352	13
	Total average population	210·19	1·01	29·76	·27	22·40	..	274·53	2·03
Total for 1939	Cells	..	..	28	2	..	..	..	..
	Barracks, with separate sleeping accommodation.	268	12	4	..	26	..	334	13
	Ditto without ditto	5	..	..	..	..	..	9	...
	Total ..	273	12	32	2	26	..	343	13
	Total average population	299·34	·68	25·78	·26	19·41	..	318·89	3·40

ANNUAL STATE

Showing the condition of the convicts discharged from

	1	2	3		
			Number who had gained		
			A	B	C
	Number discharged during the year	Number who had neither lost nor gained weight in jail	Up to 1 lb.	From 1 to 5 lbs.	From 5 to 10 lbs.
Total	6,067	1,693	424	1,516	994
Total for 1939	5,806	1,676	395	1,370	991

MENT A

in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

December 1940, in the parts of the Jails devoted to—							Superficial area per prisoner in square yards in the enclosures (ward and workshop) to which the prisoners are ordinarily confined	Spent on Jail buildings during the year		
Europeans		Juvenile convicts	Female convicts	Male convicts	Grand total			By Jail Department	By Public Works Department	
M.	F.									
10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	
								Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
..	..	..	..	25	66		..	..	..	Total.
6		13	126	2,987	3,809		..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	410	415		..	..	..	
6	..	13	126	3,422	4,290		..	19,600 2 0	22,419 4 0	
2·83	..	7·39	44·73	2,598·95	3,194·09		..	...	..	
..	..	..	..	36	66		..	..	..	Total for 1939.
6	..	13	129	2,898	3,703		..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	392	406			..	..	
6	..	13	129	3,326	4,175		..	21,745 9 0	22,911 13 0	
2·71	..	8·24	42·94	2,584·07	3,215·72		..	..	..	

MENT B

the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

weight		4					
		Number who had lost weight					
D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	
Over 10 lbs.		Up to 1 lb.	From 1 to 5 lbs.	From 5 to 10 lbs.	Over 10 lbs.		
550	3,484	200	450	155	85	890	Total.
554	3,310	170	419	165	66	820	Total for 1939.

STATE

Showing the working of the remission System in

—	Number released during the year who came under the remission system but failed to gain remission	Number of convicts released during the year who gained remission				Maximum remission in released during	
		Sentenced to				Sen-	
		One year	Not exceeding 2 years	Not exceeding 5 years	Over 5 years	One year	Not exceeding 2 years
—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total ..	..	1,506	228	146	37	72	164
Total for 1939 ..	1	1,274	220	168	39	90	215

MENT C

the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

days gained by any convict the year		Average remission gained by the convicts entered in columns 2 to 5				Maximum gratuity earned by any convict released during the year	Average gratuity earned by the convicts entered in columns 2 to 5
tenced to—		Sentenced to—					
Not exceeding 5 years	Over 5 years	One year	Not exceeding 2 years	Not exceeding 5 years	Over 5 years		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
362	947	25	102	221	457	25 14 0	0 15 1
367	1,444	25	91	231	453	22 12 0	1 2 6

STATEMENT D

Showing the nature of the crime of which convicts were imprisoned in the jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

PROVINCIAL STATEMENT A—(ASSAM)

Showing the number of inspections made by official and non-official visitors in the Jails of Assam during the year 1940.

—	Governor	Member in charge	Commissioner	Inspector-General of Prisons	*Ex-officio* visitors	District officers	Joint Magistrate, Assistant Magistrate, Deputy Magistrate or Extra Assistant Commissioner	Civil Surgeon	Judge	Board of visitors	Individual visitors	Superintendents of Jails	Lady visitors	
—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Total ..	7	21	14	13	4	67	57	35	..	64	170	5,515	12	Total.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Orders by the Governor

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JAILS IN ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1940

Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor of Assam in the Judicial and General Department, No. Pri.-399/3872-G.J., dated the 28th July 1941

READ—

The Report on the Administration of Jails in Assam for 1940.

RESOLUTION

1. The average jail population decreased in 1940 from 3,215·72 in the previous year to 3,194·09 despite a rise in respect of both admissions and discharges. This represents a decrease of 824·78 since 1936 when the average population stood at 4,018·87. The number of convicts admitted was 4,268 (4,191 males and 77 females) as compared with 4,273 (4,203 males and 70 females). Lack of accommodation still prevents adequate segregation of different classes of prisoners, but it is hoped that the additional accommodation provided for 26 male patients in the newly constructed ward in the Mental Hospital at Tezpur will reduce the undue detention of certified lunatics in jails. At the same time, the conversion of Nowgong District Jail into a Juvenile Jail which is under consideration would lead to the much desired separation of juveniles from adult prisoners.

2. The average period of detention of under-trial prisoners increased from 21·61 days in 1939 to 22·18 days. Government keep a check on undue detention of under-trials by enquiring of the District Magistrate, whenever they receive information of unduly delayed cases, but the unsatisfactory position can only be remedied by deligence on the part of the trying courts, and it is hoped that District Magistrates will exercise a greater control over this important matter.

3. Only 7 prisoners were under 16 years of age as against 10 of the previous year and 18 in 1938. Of these 5 were eligible for the Reformatory School and were transferred there without delay under the orders of the courts. The number of convicts between the ages of 16 and 21 also decreased to 256 as compared with 291 in the previous year.

4. The number of jail punishments again fell from 974 in the previous year to 903. On the other hand, 6 convicts and 5 under-trials escaped during the year against 3 convicts and 3 under-trials in the previous year. Eight of these prisoners escaped from within jails and the facts in more than one case indicated certain structural defects in jails which require serious attention. Nine of the escaped prisoners were re-captured. No serious hunger-strike occurred during the year under report. As in the previous year, no corporal punishments were inflicted. Inspecting officers of the Education Department again expressed satisfaction with the conduct of jail schools. Selected prisoners were also trained in ambulance and First Aid in some of the jails. Towards the end of the year an influx of convicts sentenced for participation in the Congress party *Satyagraha* campaign began. Since many of these were classified in the special division a number of problems in accommodation and treatment soon arose, which had to be solved after the close of the year.

5. The welcome decrease in punishments inflicted in jails bears out the Inspector-General's opinion that the remission system is appreciated by the convicts. The hope of being able to shorten their sentences by good conduct helps to keep the long-term prisoners under proper jail discipline. The number of convicts who came under this system increased from 1,701 in 1939 to 1,917. No one failed to earn remission. Government sanctioned the release of 37 convicts unconditionally and 9 conditionally on the advice of the Advisory Boards which met once at Sylhet and once at Gauhati. Government also directed the release of four convicts on petition. No release was effected under the "Good Conduct Prisoners Release Act" but it had been ordered in one instance before the close of the year. The provision

of the Act could not be implemented as a whole owing to lack of funds and other difficulties. The task has been left to the "Discharged Prisoners Aid Society" of making proposals for a system of working suitable to the present conditions of the province. The Society gave monetary help amounting to Rs.90 to *ex*-convicts during the period and there were signs of greater activity and closer popular interest in the working of the District Committees. The question of preventing the appropriation of land belonging to convicts during their incarceration in jails is still engaging the attention of the Government. This problem provides one of the main obstacles to rehabilitation of Prisoners of the cultivator class and is another question with which the "Assam Discharged Prisoners Aid Society" has much concerned itself.

6. There was a distinct improvement in the health of the jails. The ratio of admissions to hospitals was 255·47 as compared with 339·58 in the previous year and the average daily sick fell from 77·03 to 59·39. The ratio of deaths also fell from 26·43 in the previous year to 18·16. The following jail reforms were administratively approved and have been introduced as far as possible during the year under report :—

(1) Introduction of out-door games, *e.g.*, Ha-do-do and the extension of facilities for out-door games to 'C' Division prisoners.

(2) Supply of ½ a chattak of mustard oil, for the hair, to each female and sick prisoner.

(3) Replacement of *saris* of 5 yards × 40″ by *saris* of 5½ yards × 45″ for female prisoners.

(4) Provision of newspapers for all 'C' Division prisoners after censorship and introduction of the method of imparting general knowledge through magic lantern lectures.

(5) Gradual replacement of iron cooking pots, plates and cups by brass utensils.

(6) Provision of pillows and bed-sheets for all 'C' Division prisoners.

As a result of these reforms, there has been a distinct improvement in the jail life of the prisoners to which perhaps may be traced the improvement in health statistics. The question of improving the daily diet with the object of remedying the deficiencies in essential constituents is still under the consideration of Government. It has been suggested that considerable advantage will be derived if a special Nutrition Officer be appointed for scrutinising and advising on diets and food generally throughout the province.

7. The conduct of the staff of the permanent warders which numbered 326 was satisfactory. Ninety-nine warders were punished as against 138 in the previous year. The scheme for an increase in the strength of male warders in proportion to the jail population in order to reduce the hours of duty is under the consideration of Government. At present, the acceptance of the scheme would entail an increase of 20 more warders in addition to the 10 additional warders sanctioned in 1939. The arrangement with the Police Department for the training of Jail staff and warders in the Squad Drill and Musketry continued during the year.

8. The total cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners again rose from Rs.4,06,586 in the previous year to Rs.4,35,713, an increase of Rs.29,127, though the average population was less by 21·63. The increase falls mainly under the heads 'establishment charges', 'dietary charges' and 'sanitation charges'. At the same time, there was a drop in cash profits of jails from Rs.25,661 in 1939 to Rs.15,167, a decrease of Rs.10,494. This is attributed to the fact that most of the smaller jails do not show any profit in the manufacturing department as a result of the non-introduction of any new industry in place of oil pressing. This forms a problem which still calls for solution. A scheme for the introduction of small industries has however been approved at an estimated nett cost of Rs.3,000, as an experiment, and detailed proposals are in preparation.

9. In conclusion, Government congratulate Col. E. S. Phipson and Lt.-Col. L. A. P. Anderson for a successful year of Jail Administration and also Lt.-Col. A. M. V. Hesterlow, who officiated after the close of the year, for his report.

ORDER—Ordered that the Resolution be published in the *Assam Gazette*.

By order of the Governor of Assam,

H. G. DENNEHY,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

A. G. P. (Prisons) No. 2—263—2-8-1941.